

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 00535 121807Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 121505Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

U.S. MISSION BERLIN 361

AMCONSUL BREMEN

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CINCUSEUCOM STUTTGART

TUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

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FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: BADEN-WUERTEMBERG CDU ASSESSMENT OF LOWER SAXONY ELECTION
RESULTS

1. SUMMARY: DR. GERHARD MAHLER, STATE SECRETARY,
POLITICAL CHIEF OF STAFF TO MIN-PRESIDENT FILBINGER,
AND CLOSE FRIEND OF HELMUT KOHL AND KURT BIEDENKOPF,
TOLD CONOFF JUNE 11 THAT SWITCH OF CHANCELLORSHIP FROM
BRANDT TO SCHMIDT HAD UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED SPD TWO OR
THREE PERCENT WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE GONE TO FDP;
THAT CDU IN LOWER SAXONY HAD TURNED DOWN ELECTION
ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE, I.E. FROM NATIONAL PARTY
RESOURCES; THAT KOHL CONSIDERED CDU IN LOWER SAXONY HAD
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PAGE 02 STUTTG 00535 121807Z

CONDUCTED WEAK CAMPAIGN; AND THAT RESULTS OF CDU PRIVATE

POLLS SINCE ELECTION SHOW THAT SCHMIDT STANDING WITH PUBLIC STABILIZED, AS EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAHLER SAID CDU EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN IN PREVIOUS LANDTAG ELECTIONS THAT LOCAL CDU PARTY ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT FROM OUTSIDE HELP. IN LOWER SAXONY, KOHL, BIEDENKOPF AND HE HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET CDU CHAIRMAN HASSELMANN TO ACCEPT ELECTION HELPERS FROM SUCCESSFUL HAMBURG CAMPAIGN.

3. ASKED WHETHER THIS KIND OF CONSIDERATION WAS REALLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN LOWER SAXONY, MAHLER CONCEDED THAT NOT THE CASE. HE ALSO SAID THAT CDU PUBLIC LINE THAT FDP HAD "DISREGARDED DEMOCRATIC RESULTS" BY JOINING SPD RATHER THAN CDU, WITH ITS PLURALITY, WAS WEAK POSITION TO TAKE. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED UNHAPPINESS WITH IT.

4. ASKED WHETHER ELECTION RESULTS HAD STRENGTHENED OR WEAKENED KOHL'S POSITION, MAHLER WAS EVASIVE, SAYING MERELY THAT CDU HAD NOT DONE BADLY IN PHOTO FINISH AND IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE PRECISE ABOUT EFFECT OF KOHL'S PERSONAL INPUTS IN TERMS OF VOTES.

5. COMMENT: MAHLER IS WELL INFORMED BEHIND-SCENES POLITICIAN WELL-KNOWN TO CONGEN. WE SENSE THAT HE IS NOT DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY LOWER SAXONY RESULT, BUT THAT RESULT IS INDEED SEEN AS SOMETHING OF AN INTERNAL SET-BACK FOR KOHL BY LATTER'S BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING MAHLER. IF OUR READING IS CORRECT, THEN B/W CDU LEADERS AS A WHOLE WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL REASON TO LOOK TOWARD STOLTENBERG AS BEST PROSPECT FOR 76.

WE WERE TOLD BY OTHER SOURCES PRIOR PROSPECT TO JUNE 9 THAT B/W CDU ALREADY WAS EVENLY DIVIDED FOR KOHL AND STOLTENBERG. RUCHTI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PARTY LEADERS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STUTT00535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740151-1098
From: STUTTGART
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740650/aaaabrai.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG CDU ASSESSMENT OF LOWER SAXONY ELECTION RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, GE, CDU, (KOHL, HELMUT), (MAHLER, GERHARD)
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005